

Second Chances Program Marks One Year Anniversary for Department of Correction

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Commissioner, J. David Donahue



Photo Caption: Commissioner J. David Donahue with Offender Handler and Greyhound at Graduation

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Pendleton, Indiana (June 21 , 2007) - The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) in Pendleton, Indiana, held its 4th greyhound graduation, marking its one year anniversary yesterday . Last year, CIF welcomed four retired racing greyhounds. Since then, the program has expanded to 32 greyhounds, with

33 offenders handlers.

"We are looking at a new trend in our facilities toward programming that give the offender experiential activities not traditionally embraced by corrections," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. "These dogs represent an attachment to something other than themselves which can hopefully translate into a successful re-entry into their communities."

This 12-week program provides socialization and basic training to retired racing greyhounds so that they may become more adoptable. At the same time, it teaches offender handlers responsibility and lessons on how to care for their greyhound.

"The success of this endeavor rests with the Commissioner Donahue's desire for innovative programming, strong volunteers, a great staff committee and a fine group of handlers," commented Facility Superintendent Thomas Hanlon.

Seventy-five greyhound dogs have graduated at four facilities including the Correctional Industrial Facility, Rockville, Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility and Branchville. All dogs have been adopted locally or out-of-state.

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.